म एश्योर कर रहे हैं कि उनको वक्त क्रैडिट मिलता रहे, फाइनेंस चार्जिज, जिससे वह किसानों को समय पर पैसा दे सकें।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : समय पर पैसा देते भी हैं क्या ?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : यह बहुत ही खुशी की बात है कि इस बार देश में चीनी का उत्पादन हमारी घरेलू खपत से कहीं ज्यादा होगा। ऐसे में सुरक्षित भंडार बनाने या निर्यात करने का निर्णय तो अभी सरकार ने नहीं लिया है लेकिन मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या इस बार देशवासियों को चीनी सस्ती दिलाने का निर्णय सरकार ले रही है ? क्योंकि दामों का सीधा संबंध डिमांड और सप्लाई पर आधारित है। अगर मांग से ज्यादा उत्पादन देश में हो रहा है तो कम से कम देश के गरीब यह एहसास कर सकें कि देश में चीनी का उत्पादन ज्यादा हुआ है तो इस बार चीनी के दाम कम होंगे। मैं जानना चाहती हूं कि चीनी के दामों को सस्ता करने का फैसला सरकार करेगी ?

श्री अजित सिंह : जहां तक पी० डी० एस० का सवाल है, हमने चीनी के दाम, शायद पिछली बार 1994 में तय किए थे, उसके बाद नहीं बढ़ाए और फ्री सेल शुगर प्राइस भी पिछले 6 महीनों से स्टेबल है। बल्कि जो जून में काटा दिया गया है ... **(व्यवधान)** ... उसके बाद प्राइस कुछ कम हुए हैं। लेकिन मैं माननीय सदस्यों को बताना चाहूंगा कि शुगर इंडस्ट्री में फारमर्स का इंटरेस्ट, कन्ज्यूमर्स का इंटरेस्ट और इंडस्ट्री भी वाइवल हो, इन तीनों चीजों का ध्यान रखना है। अभी एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि फारमर्स का पैसा नहीं मिला है, उनका बकाया पैसा शुगर मिलों पर है। तो हमको यह भी देखना है कि शुगर मिलों की यह केपैसिटी हो कि वे फारमर्स को पैसा दे सकें।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : यह आप जो आयें-बायें करके बता रहे हैं इसका क्या अर्थ है। आप सीधा बताइए कि चीनी के दाम सस्ता करेंगे या नहीं ?

World Bank assistance for rubber Board

*743. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has accepted the assistance from the World Bank;

(b) if so,, what are the projects approved and the terms and conditions of the World Bank assistance; and

(c) what is the period stipulated for the repayment of this assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank Assisted Rubber Development Project provides for expansion and strengthening of rubber plantation sector in India. The main components of the Project are:—

1. Replanting of old and uneconomic rubber in 40,000 hectares in traditional areas.

2. New planting in 30,000 hectares.

3. Productivity enhancement in 60,000 hectares.

4. Expansion/upgradation of rubber and rubber wood processing facilities.

5. Institutional strengthening of Rubber Board for project co-ordination, research, extension, training and technical assistance.

6. Development of women and tribal people amongst participants, particularly in Tripura.

The total estimated outlay for this project is Rs. 445.20 crores for a period of five years beginning from 1st April, 1993. World Bank assistance will be in the form of credit of SDR 66.4 million from International Development Association (IDA). The credit is interest free but carries a commitment charge of 1/2 percent on principal amount not withdrawn from time to time and a service charge of 3/4 per cent on the principal amount.

(c) The principal is to be repaid in semi-annual instalments commencing from 1st December, 2002 and ending on 1st June, 2027.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, the total estimated outlay for the World Bank project is Rs. 445.20 crores for a period of five years beginning from 1st April, 1993. It is meant for planting in an area of 30,000 hectares and productivity enhancement in 60,000 hectares of area. There is a provision for project co-ordination, research, extension and so on. But, Madam, for increasing the production, the cost of subsides, fertilizers, fungicide and rain guard material which is at present Rs. 2.25 crores, may go up to Rs. five crores. The main point is, there is a short-fall of about 25 per cent in respect of replanting of old and uneconomic rubber in 40,000 hectares in traditional areas. The same is the case with the new planting in 30,000 hectares of area. The main dispute is whether the planting subsidy should be given to the five hectare—holder or two hectare-holder. Because of this dispute, it is very difficult to go in for economical planting. In this connection, I would like to know whether instead of succumbing to the pressure of the World Bank, would the Rubber Board be allowed to continue with the old practice of giving subsidy to the five hectare holder so that the programme could be implemented at a good speed? What does the Minister propose to do in this regard?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, it would not be correct to say that the programme of planting and replanting has not been a success. This programme was commenced only on 1st April, 1993. In the first year of the programme, that is during 1993-94, on new planting, the provisional figure shows an achievement of 87 percent against the target and in replanting, 69 percent against the target. In the second year, the provision figure shows 100 per cent achievement against the new planting target and 80 per cent achievement against the replanting target. I think, by the time the programme is completed over five years, the programme would have achieved its target. As of today, the financial assistance of rubber subsidy is restricted to the first two hectares in traditional areas for replanting and new planting and for the first five hectares in non-traditional areas. If this figure is causing any problem, if the limit has to be increased, I am willing to consider it. But, at the moment, the programme is for two hectares in traditional areas and five hectares in non-traditional areas.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, the limit has to be increased from two hectares to five hectare because there are so many small growers. So, don't reduce it. My second supplementary is, the research is the most important factor in the productivity of rubber and the RRI, the Rubber Research Institute, is doing a good job and it needs more personnel and more support, especially in the field of study in gene transfer technology, which is very much in an advance stage. I would like to know the steps taken in this respect. At the moment, there is no Chairman for the Rubber Board for the last two months. It is very difficult to go ahead without a Chairman because three years are left for the implementation of the project. It is still at the take off stage and the research has not improved as expected. We

could not go in for new rubber plants, new biotechnology. A lot of things are there and I think we can improve. Biotechnology is yet to be used. There is a lot of concern about it. In this connection, Madam I would like to know from the hon Minister when he is going to appoint a Chairman for the Rubber Board and to what extent the World Bank assistance is going to be siphoned off for research and development of the Rubber Research Institute of India.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, we had a Chairperson until a few days ago. She has been selected for a prestigious post at the international level. So, we relieved her and I except a new Chairman will be in place in the next few days.

As far as research is concerned, the Rubber Research Institute of India has done splendid work in the past and evidence of this work is the yield per hectare has dramatically increased in India. We are now the fourth largest producer of rubber. The yield per hectare is as much as 1,270 kilograms and RRII has developed and released a high-yielding clone, known as RRII 105, which has a potential to yield 3,000 kilograms per hectare. So, I would commend the remarkable work done by RRII and I promise the hon. Member that we will continue to support RRII and I have doubt that our productivity will increase substantially in the future

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Madam, according to the reply of the Minister, for this World Bank project the outlay is 445 crores of rupees. I would like to know the amount that is actually withdrawn. If you do not withdraw, you have to pay some special amount. And (b) part of it is whether the interest rate is stipulated or not. There is no interest rate. There is only a service charge I would like to know whether you are collecting any interest from the farmers to whom the money is being given. You are getting the money without interest. I would like to know whether you are charging interest from the farmers.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, although the project itself is of the order of Rs. 445 crores, the World Bank support for the project is only Rs. 290 crores. The remainder comes out of our own Plan funds and our own internal accruals. Now we are drawing every year what is required to be drawn. For example, Madam, in 1995-96 the total domestic resources available is Rs. 78.96 crores which includes a World Bank grant of Rs. 22.09 crores. So, we are not defaulting nor are we failing to withdraw. We are drawing whatever amount has to be drawn every year. We are collecting a cess on rubber and that is also going to fund this project.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is the World Bank giving assistance free. I mean, without interest?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, the World Bank is giving interest-free .. .. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI O RAJAGOPAL: I wanted to know whether they are charging any interest from the farmers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has said that a cess is collected, not interest. Only a cess is collected.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We are collecting a cess on rubber

SHRI O RAJAGOPAL: What is the cess?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will get you the figure and let you know the cess.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, the cess is also meant for the growers There is a lot of bureaucratic problem. It must be properly distributed. The Minister should look into this problem.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is using it for. (*Interruptions*). .. .

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This cess is being used only for development.. (*Interruptions*). The cess, Madam is one rupee per kilogram and in 1994-95 we collected Rs. 19.82 crores.

मौलाना अबेदुल्लाखान आजमी : मैडम, मेरी जानकारी के तहत विश्व बैंक के जरिये मुखतलिफ विकास कार्यों के लिए दी गई बहुत बड़ी रकम बगैर इस्तेमाल के पड़ी है । क्या रबड़ बोर्ड को विश्व बैंक के जरिये कुछ रकमें ऐसी भी दी गई हैं जो इस्तेमाल नहीं हो रही हैं ? अगर हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों में गैर इस्तेमालशुदा राशियों के क्या आंकड़े हैं ?

†مولانا عبیداللہ خاں اعظمی: میڈم میری جانکاری کے تحت وشو بینک کے ذریعے مختلف وکاس کاریوں کیلئے دی گئی بہت بڑی رقم بغیر استعمال کے پڑی ہے۔ کیا ربڑ بورڈ کو وشو بینک کے ذریعے کچھ رقمیں ایسی بھی دی گئی ہیں جو استعمال نہیں ہو رہی ہیں اگر ہاں۔ تو پچھلے تین ورشوں میں غیر استعمال شدہ راشیوں کیا آنکڑے ہیں۔

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I did not say it was unutilised. On the contrary, I said that it was being utilised.

उपसभापति : यूटिलाइज हो गयी है । Mr. Singla. I don't think there is anything on this question.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Madam, actually I would like to the hon. Minister whether the Rubber Research Institute of India is fully equipped with modern technology. If it is not, what steps is the Government of India taking to make all facilities available to it so that the utilisation of the research institute world be more proper?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As I said, the RRII is doing splendid work. I think it is equipped fully. But, as in any other research institutions, there will always be demand for more equipment and more facilities. When I visit Kerala in a couple of weeks, I intend to go to the RRII. If they do point out any deficiencies certainly my personal view and the Government's view in the matter is that we should support fully and substaintially the research work. We will provide funds and whatever they require to continue their good work.

Import of Copper

74. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: (a) the countries from which copper is being imported at present?

(b) the reasons for importing copper from these countries;

(c) whether Government propose to discontinue import of copper in view of the surplus production this year; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) To meet the gap between domestic demand and supply, copper is being imported mainly from Zambia, U.S.A., Russia, Zaire Republic, U.K. and Singapore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Madam Chairperson, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether import of copper is being done through global ten-

†[] Transliteration in Arabic script.